

***Dryas julia* (Fabr.) (Lep.: Nymphalidae:Heliconiinae) in West Sussex**

On 17.viii.1998 a freshly dead specimen of the bright orange Heliconiine butterfly *Dryas julia*, a native of Central America, was brought to me by a neighbour, Mr Mark Varvill. He had found it in his conservatory, and he was sure that it was not there on the previous day. It was in good condition apart from a small piece missing from the left forewing. A resident in West Wittering, Mr L. Quinton, subsequently mentioned to me that he had also seen a large orange butterfly in his garden during last summer which he did not recognise.

Emmett *et al.* 1990 (*Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, 7: 182) report that the Jamaican subspecies *delila* (Fabr.) of this species was captured in a fruiterers shop in Rotherhithe, East London "probably imported among bananas in the pupal stage", in 1936 and this appears to be the only previous British record. I contacted the nearby butterfly farm at Earnley, only about five miles away (as the butterfly flies!) who do keep this species, and I was told that it was possible that there could have been escapes (Priddle, *pers. comm.*). Although Mr and Mrs Varvill had returned from Dominica earlier in the year, I think that the most likely source must be the butterfly farm. The foodplants are many species of Passion-flower *Passiflora*, but it seems unlikely that the butterfly would breed in this country. The specimen has been lodged at the Department of Entomology, Natural History Museum, London.— CHARLES DEWHURST, Ellanore House, West Wittering, near Chichester, West Sussex PO20 8AN.

***Atomaria scutellaris* Motschulsky (Col.: Cryptophagidae) at Porthcawl, Glamorgan**

On a sunny afternoon during a weekend visit to Porthcawl on 1.iii.1997 a walk along the sea front brought me to an open area of mown grass between the road and the shore known as "The Green". Near its edge, where it drops some two or three metres to a rocky shoreline, were several flat stones. Turning these over revealed a number of beetles. One of these was a species of *Atomaria* which was unfamiliar to me. Later dissection showed it to be a male whose aedeagus appeared most similar to that of *A. scutellaris* Motschulsky figured by Sjöberg (1947, *Entom. Tidskr.*, 68: fig. 45). Reference to Johnson (1993, *Provisional Atlas of Cryptophagidae – Atomariinae (Coleoptera) of Britain and Ireland*, I.T.E., Huntingdon, map 47) showed this species to have a distribution confined to two separate areas; a south-western group encompassing the Channel Islands, Scilly Isles and the extreme tip of Cornwall; and a southern group along the Sussex coast but also extending inland to Surrey. I sent the specimen to Colin Johnson who confirmed my provisional determination and commented that he was unaware of any other records from further north up the south-west peninsula. This would, therefore, appear to be the first record of *Atomaria scutellaris* from Wales.

The most numerous species of beetle taken with *A. scutellata* was the histerid *Kissiter minimus* (Aubé). Other more cosmopolitan Coleoptera present were *Amara aenea* (Deg.), *Harpalus affinis* (Schr.), *Tachyporus hypnorum* (F.), *T. pusillus* Gr., *Oxyptoda brachyptera* (Steph.), and larval *Lagria hirta* (L.).— R. COLIN WELCH, The Mathom House, Hemington, nr. Oundle, Peterborough PE8 5QJ.